

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-69 are currently active in this case. Claims 63 and 65-69 have been amended by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 63 was objected to; and claims 63-69 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 030-005779 to Azuma et al.

In response to the objection to claim 63, Applicants have amended that claim as recommended in the Office Action. Consequently, no further objection to claim 63 is anticipated.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention (claim 63) is directed to an image forming apparatus including a control device configured to cause a storage device to supply power to a heat source when a sensor member senses a temperature of a fixing member has decreased below a first reference temperature from a starting time of an image forming operation, wherein the controller changes the first reference temperature based on at least one of the following:

- (1) a decreased speed of the temperature of the fixing member;
- (2) a temperature of the pressing member;
- (3) an ambient temperature; and
- (4) a temperature difference between the temperature of the fixing member and that of the pressing member.

In contrast thereto, the Azuma et al. patent is merely directed to monitoring the temperature of a pressure roller and raising the temperature of the pressure roller when the

¹ See Figures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 14 and the corresponding disclosure.

temperature of the pressure roller drops below a referenced temperature. Azuma et al. fail to teach a configuration for sensing a temperature of a fixing member and sensing a temperature of the pressing member to determine whether power should be supplied to a heat source in order to heat the fixing member. Further, Azuma fails to teach raising the temperature of the fixing member when the sensed temperature of the fixing member has decreased below a first reference temperature, wherein the controller changes the first reference temperature based on at least one of the following:

- (1) a decreased speed of the temperature of the fixing member;
- (2) a temperature of the pressing member;
- (3) an ambient temperature; and
- (4) a temperature difference between the temperature of the fixing member and that of the pressing member.

For the foregoing reasons, Azuma is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 63. Claims 64-69 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 63 is believed to be allowable.

An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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